GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2761
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
VISIT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OF BANGLADESH
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh visited India in August, 2000 and handed over a letter of PM of Bangladesh addressed to our PM;

(b) if so, whether during this visit bilateral issues were discussed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether India had opened the road route to Bangladesh when the Calcutta-Dhaka bus service was inaugurated;

(e) if so, whether this route has not become operative so far; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the visit, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh called on the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs of India and also held a meeting with the Foreign Secretary. The discussions covered various issues of mutual interest including a review of the state of bilateral relations. Issues concerning cooperation on security-related matters, the India - Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, and high level exchanges between the two countries were also discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction over close and cordial relations between the two countries, and discussed ways to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation with an emphasis on mutually beneficial trade and economic ties.

(d) to (f) The road route to Bangladesh via Petrapole, which is used by the Calcutta - Dhaka bus service, had been in existence well before the service began. It continues to be an operational road route to Bangladesh.